

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2022

Ms. Stephanie Sfiridis
Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Ms. Heather Gottry
Director and Designated Agency Ethics Official, Departmental Ethics Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Meses. Sfiridis and Gottry,

Senior leaders at federal agencies are responsible for fostering cultures of ethical conduct.¹ Employees unable to act impartially are not qualified to perform their role in government.² To ensure appropriate conduct, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issues ethical standards by which all executive branch employees must abide.³ OGE standards require employees to “place loyalty to the Constitution, the laws, and ethical principles above private gain”⁴ and “act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual.”⁵ Transparency is key to ensuring federal employees’ compliance with OGE’s standards.⁶

To confirm Ms. Sfiridis’ compliance with ethical standards and to assist with our oversight activities, please provide the following documents as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m., January 28, 2022:

1. A copy of Ms. Sfiridis’ signed ethics pledge.

¹ *Nomination of Emory A. Rounds III Nominated to be Director of U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Kelly A. Higashi Nominated to be an Associate Judge, Superior Court for the District of Columbia, and Frederick M. Nutt Nominated to be Controller, Officer of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget: Hearing before the S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 115th Cong. (2018) (statement of Emory A. Rounds III, nominated to be Director of U.S. Office of Government Ethics).*

² *Id.*

³ 5 C.F.R. Part 2635 (2017).

⁴ *Id.* at 101(b)(1).

⁵ *Id.* at 101(b)(8).

⁶ U.S. OFFICE OF GOV’T ETHICS, *The Ethics Program, Transparency, and You* (June 7, 2018), <https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Resources/The+Ethics+Program,+Transparency,+and+You>.

Mses. Sfiridis and Gottry

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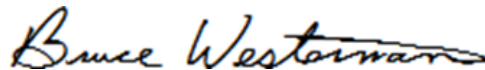
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2. A copy of Ms. Sfiridis' Ethics Guidance and Recusal Obligations and all related attachments, including, but not limited to, her List of Recusal and Quick Reference Chart.
3. A document sufficient to describe all ethics waivers granted to Ms. Sfiridis.
4. A copy of Ms. Sfiridis' Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e).

Please contact the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Minority staff at HNRR.Oversight@mail.house.gov with any questions about this request and to coordinate the delivery of your response to room 1329 of the Longworth House Office Building.

An attachment contains additional instructions for responding to this request. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Westerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

cc: The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

Enclosure